

The Cherokee Temple Sisters



One of the most tragic events in our nation's history took place around the year 1838. President Andrew Jackson defied a United States Supreme Court ruling, and ordered the United States Army to remove thousands of Native Americans from their homes in North Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama and other surrounding states.

Native Americans, who made the long journey, called it *The Place Where We Cried* or the *Trail of Tears*. Some would also call it *The Forced Removal*.

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The Forced Removal resulted in the death of about four thousand Native Americans. They died of starvation, exposure to the cold and diseases. They had inadequate food and clothes, and most had to walk in the bitterly cold weather due to a lack of transportation. Ill prepared for the long journey that awaited them, they suffered tremendously. Many of them were infants, very young children and elderly, feeble people. This made the long trip even more hazardous.

According to family histories and Tennessee Census records in Decatur and Henderson Counties, there were three young Cherokee girls who were left behind with local families who were willing to take care for them. This family story has been passed down over the years by the Johnson, Eason and Scott families. The children's names were Mary Anne, Parthena E. and Kizziah Jane Temple.

(Any student of family histories and census records must take into account that dates and names may differ due to knowledge of the people who gave the information, and the education of the people who recorded that particular information. Genealogy is for the most part based on circumstantial evidence.)

The little Cherokee girls' father was said to be a man named Henry Temple, DOB 1805, and their mother was said to be an Ellen Britt. One record indicates that Parthena E. and Kizziah Jane were the only Temples to be listed in the United States Census roles in Decatur County in 1850. That would be an indication that their parents were no longer in the surrounding area.

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Henry Temple and Ellen Britt's names also appear as the parents of Kizziah Jane Temple Eason on her Decatur County, Tennessee death certificate.

Henry Temple's and Ellen Britt's names also appear online in the Decatur County *Johnson's Family Tree* on Ancestry.Com as Kizziah Jane Temple Eason's parents.

It is also cited online in the *History of Hardin County* that a man left his three little daughters with families in this area around 1838. This article mentioned that this man also had a small son. The article said he promised to eventually return to get his girls, but family history says no one ever heard from him or his son again.

Family history also states that Henry Temple gave his three little girls to different families in the area to prevent their suffering and possible deaths on the long, hazardous trip to the Oklahoma Indian Territory. He did decide, however, to take his son on the journey with him.

Perhaps he thought he could care adequately for one child or he might have been thinking of escaping later on. Being able to run from his captors might have been more of a possibility if he had just one child with him.

There was no mention of their mother, Ellen Britt, after 1838. She may have already been deceased.

The *Trail of Tears* occurred around 1838 and Ellen Britt Temple's youngest child, Kizziah, is listed as being born in 1838. Many babies

were born on the *Trail of Tears*, and there is a possibility that Ellen Britt Temple may have died from complications of childbirth.

Since Parthena E. Temple was placed in the home of the Elkanah "Caney" Britt family, and the mother was also a Britt, the staff at Ancestry.Com thought it might indicate that the little girls' mother was a relative of that particular Britt family. Considering her probable age at that point in time, she could have been Elkanah "Caney" Britt's sister.

Another point to be considered is the fact that Native Americans were still living in this area during that period of our Tennessee history. This family might have already been living somewhere in the surrounding counties.

After a lot of searching, however, I haven't been able to find where the Henry Temple family came from. One record stated that the parents were born in North Carolina, but Kizziah Jane Temple Eason's death certificate said her parents were born in Tennessee.

There were two basic trails that the Native Americans took in Tennessee on the *Trail of Tears*, the *Benge Trail* and the *Bell Trail*.

The *Benge Trail* started in Fort Payne Alabama and the *Bell Trail* began in Charleston, Tennessee. One crossed the Tennessee River in Savannah, Tennessee and traveled west through Bethel Springs, Tennessee. The *Benge Trail* went north on the Tennessee River into Kentucky

I looked up the list of Native Americans who survived and eventually reached the Oklahoma Indian Territory. There was a

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"Templeton" mentioned on that list, but I couldn't verify that it was their father, Henry Temple, as no complete name was given.

Native American names such as Little Duck, Dragging Canoe and Bear Killer are often used in their records. This makes it almost impossible to tell what their Christian or English names might have been. Complicating the matter even further, many of the Native Americans who died on the *Trail of Tears* were cast aside or buried with no grave markers.

Nevertheless, the little Cherokee Temple sisters grew up, married, raised their own families, lived out their lives, died and were buried in this area of the state of Tennessee.

Parthena or Parthenia E. (Thelma) Temple appeared to have been the older child and probably was born around 1833. She was listed in the 1850 United States Federal Census in the home of Elkanah "Caney" Britt and his family at Brodies' Landing in Decatur County, Tennessee.

She was said to be eighteen years old at that point in time.

The Elkanah "Caney" Britt family apparently took care of her until she married a Josiah Granville Montgomery, DOB-1839, and raised a family in Decatur County, Tennessee.

If the Indian Removal date was 1838 and the family passed through this part of Tennessee at that time, she must have been about five years old when she was left at the Britt home.

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Since the Britt family was residing at Brodie's Landing on the Tennessee River, Elkanah "Caney" Britt must have been working on that part of the river.

The Tennessee River was, at that period in Tennessee history, a major trading and transporting system. Corn, peanuts, lumber and other crops were hauled to the river by mule, oxen, and wagon for transport by boat to other population centers and ports.

It would also mean that this river was a major meeting place for all kinds of people. It could indicate the type of setting where Henry Temple might have met and pleaded with families to take and care for his little girls.

Parthena E Temple's husband, Josiah Granville Montgomery, was the son of a David Montgomery of Perry County, Tennessee. (That may have been in what is now our present Decatur County area as Decatur County was at one time part of Perry County).

One notation stated that when Josiah Montgomery returned after fighting in the Civil War, he was informed that a man in the community had been abusive to his wife, Parthena, and his children while he was away at battle.

Angered by the treatment of his family, he took a gun and went to that man's home. The man was at his home burning a brush pile when Josiah found him. The story goes on to say that Josiah shot the man, and as a result, the man fell into the fire and died.

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Mary Anne Temple, was probably the middle child as her birth date is said to be around 1837 and death, 1916. She was placed in the Henderson County home of a Spencer and Nancy Davis at about age one.

The Davis couple were said to have come to Tennessee from Virginia. No other children are listed in that home in the census so the couple must have been glad to have a small child to care for.

One family history notation stated that as time passed, a young Andrew Jackson Williams was at the Spencer Davis home doing some carpentry work for the Davis couple. He met their young, adopted daughter while he was working for them.

Andrew told Mary Anne Temple that he would eventually return, and when he did, his intention was to marry her. It seems ironic that his middle name was Andrew Jackson, but Mary Anne must have felt the same way about Andrew as he did her because she married him and continued to reside in Henderson County. The couple had at least one son, Timothy Cornelius Williams.

After her first husband, Andrew, passed away, Mary Anne married a man named Haire and lived out the rest of her life in Madison County, Tennessee. She is buried in the Hollywood Cemetery in Jackson, Tennessee.

Kizziah Jane Temple grew up in the Shade Eason home. Her birth date was said to be June 9, 1838 and her date of death is said to be June 9, 1923. If you place the *Indian Removal* in 1838, she must have been an infant when she was left at the Eason home.

Kizziah eventually married one of Armstead Eason's sons, Jonathan D. Eason, 1841-1919, and had a family of her own. She and Jonathan may have grown up together and records show that they also lived to be of an old age together. Both are buried at the Liberty Cemetery in Decatur County, Tennessee.

Kizziah Jane Temple Eason's name is found in several family trees in the West Tennessee area. (Johnsons/Easons/Scotts etc).

Kizziah Jane Temple Eason and Jonathan D. Eason had four daughters: Martha Ann Eason (1861-1902), Frances C. Eason (1862-1937), Mary Almarene Eason (1865-1948) and Lucinda B. Eason (1868-1958)

Her older daughter, Martha Ann Eason married Marion Hickman Johnson, 1855-1941, and had a large family.

Her daughter, Frankie, married Reuben Wylie Goff, 1872-1947, and had two children. Her second husband was John Wesley Newman, DOB-1877.

Kizziah's daughter, Lucinda, married Jesse B .Scott, 1866-1928, and she also had a large family. Neighbors and family members called her *Aunt Lucy*.

Mary Almarene Eason married James Lemeral. Jones, 1871-1950, and had three children. Jim and Mary Almarene's youngest child and their only daughter together was Paris Lottie Jones. (Paris Lottie had a half sister, Cora, by her father's first marriage).

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Paris Lottie, 1907-1993, married Charles Walter Eason, 1895-1976, and they became the parents of James Leon, Charles Junior, Thomas Albert, Kenneth Ray and Brenda Kaye.

Mary Almarene and James L. Jones would be the maternal grandparents of Paris Lottie and Charles Walter's children.

Kizziah Jane Temple Eason, of course, would be the maternal great grandmother of James Leon, Charles Junior, Thomas Albert, Kenneth Ray and Brenda Kaye. Jonathan D. Eason would be their maternal great grandfather. This is their Native American heritage.

Their children: Randy, Steve, Pam and Debbie Eason, Shelia, Dwight, and David Eason, Teresa, Mike and Shawn Eason, Daniel and John Eason and Bryan Hodge would be the great great-maternal grandchildren of Jonathan D. Eason and the Cherokee lady, Kizziah Jane Temple Eason.

The children of the family members above would be the great, great, great maternal grandchildren of Jonathan and Kizziah Eason. (That would include Dylan, Logan and Drake Eason) That is their Native American Cherokee Heritage.

I have searched many, many records for more information on the parents of the Temple girls, but all I have been able to find, of any note, was an 1870 census report from Sharpsburg, Bath County, Kentucky. It listed a Henry Temple and a younger man, William Temple, who could be his son, in the home of a Kentucky family named Nash.

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I did read that some of the Native Americans escaped into the wilderness of Kentucky while they were enroute to the Oklahoma Indian Territory and stayed hid there for a long period of time.

It is only a guess, but Henry Temple may have escaped and stayed hidden with his young son in Kentucky. He may have not returned to Tennessee because he was afraid he and his son would be captured or he could have had health problems that prevented such a long trip back to Tennessee.

I also believe that his wife, Ellen Britt Temple, may have died on the trail before or after she reached Decatur County. I don't believe the father could have started the trip with all of these very small children without their mother.

The fact that Kizziah was an infant at that time would indicate that the mother had been present on or at the beginning of the long, forced journey to the Oklahoma Indian Territory. One source said the journey took about eight months on some of the trails.

Another history notation makes a strong statement on the art of traveling in the early years of Tennessee. Today we could travel most of the trip our ancestors made from North Carolina in a day but coming afoot or by mule, wagon and oxcart was a whole different story. It took months for the early people in our family histories to travel from other states.

Considering the information I've found in the *Johnson Family Tree*, on *Ancestry.Com*, and in the *History of Hardin County*, I think

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this is a fairly accurate account of the *Eason Family's Native American Heritage*.

To become a Member of the Cherokee Nation, I think you have a 1/16 blood quorum. The blood quorum, however, doesn't count as much as your direct lineage to a member of the Cherokee Tribe.

For that, you have to go back to the name rolls that were taken after the *Trail of Tears*, and the name rolls taken in the North Carolina Eastern Band of Cherokee who hid in the Great Smokey Mountains and escaped the *Final Removal*.

You have to follow a direct Cherokee Tribe member because you cannot tell which tribe you descended from by just DNA testing.

The DNA test will verify the Native American blood line but it could be a different tribe: Shawnee, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Seminole etc.

The Cherokee Nation Website encourages applying for membership if you are of Cherokee heritage

They insist that it your right to do so as that was and still is a part of your heritage.

I will continue my search but hopefully, some other member of our families can access even more exact information than I have and share it with the rest of their family members.



Out of curiosity and my love of history, I still have a lot questions about these little Cherokee girls.

Did they know about each other? If so, did they get to see each other again?

Did they know about their heritage or did they and the others around them hide that fact because it might bring harm to the little girls?

The Native Americans, at that point in our country's history, were not fully accepted in white society and some other ethnic groups.

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A Cherokee warrior named *Chief Junaluska* saved *General Andrew Jackson*'s life at the *Battle of Horseshoe Bend* in Alabama during the *War of 1812*, but later on in history, a then President *Andrew Jackson* despised the Cherokees enough to almost destroy their nation.

That same Cherokee Warrior, *Chief Junaluska*, walked with the other Cherokees on the *Trail of Tears* to the Oklahoma Indian Territory and survived. After a period of time, the same Cherokee Warrior, an older *Chief Junaluska*, left the reservation in Oklahoma and walked back to his former home in North Carolina and later died there.

Parthena Temple was better known as Thena. She was an orphan, having a sister, Kissire Temple. In 1850 Parthena was living in the house of E.C. Britt. Kissire was living with Shadrac Eason. They are the only Temples listed in the Decatur Co. Census in 1850. In the original Temple family there were 3 girls and 1 boy. I do not know the boy's name but Parthena and Kissire's sister's name was Mary Anne. She married a Williams near Jackson. They had a son named Timothy. The father left the 3 girls with different families whiel he and the son went west. He was to return for the 3 girls. He nor his son were ever heard of again.

Children of JOSIAH MONTGOMERY and PARTHENA TEMPLE are:

- i. JAMES HARVEY³ MONTGOMERY, b. April 08, 1853, Near Red Walnut, Decatur Co. TN; d. May 12, 1915 ; m. FANNIE AUTRY, December 06, 1874, Decatur Co. TN; b. August 31, 1853; d. December 17, 1930 .
- ii. ROBERT JAMES MONTGOMERY, b. September 14, 1854, Tennessee; d. May 01, 1900; m. MARTHA ANN WALKER, February 28, 1878, Decatur Co. TN; b. August 20, 1859, Tennessee; d. November 15, 1931.
- iii. SUSAN ADDIE MONTGOMERY, b. April 1857, Tennessee; d. 1940 ; m. (1) HARRY CODDY, November 25, 1878, Decatur Co. TN; b. about 1856, Tennessee; m. (2) WILLIAM JACK TUCKER, January 07, 1881, Decatur Co. TN; b. March 1856, Tennessee; d. 1935 .
- iv. JESSE LAFAYETTE MONTGOMERY, b. about 1859, Tennessee; m. ?: MARTHA J. MONTGOMERY, b. about 1860; d. 1863, Montgomery Cemetery, Decatur Co. TN.
- v.



The picture above is the family of Mary Anne Temple Williams Haire. She is the lady in the back row to the left. Mary Anne is the sister of Parthena E. Temple and Kizziah Jane Temple.

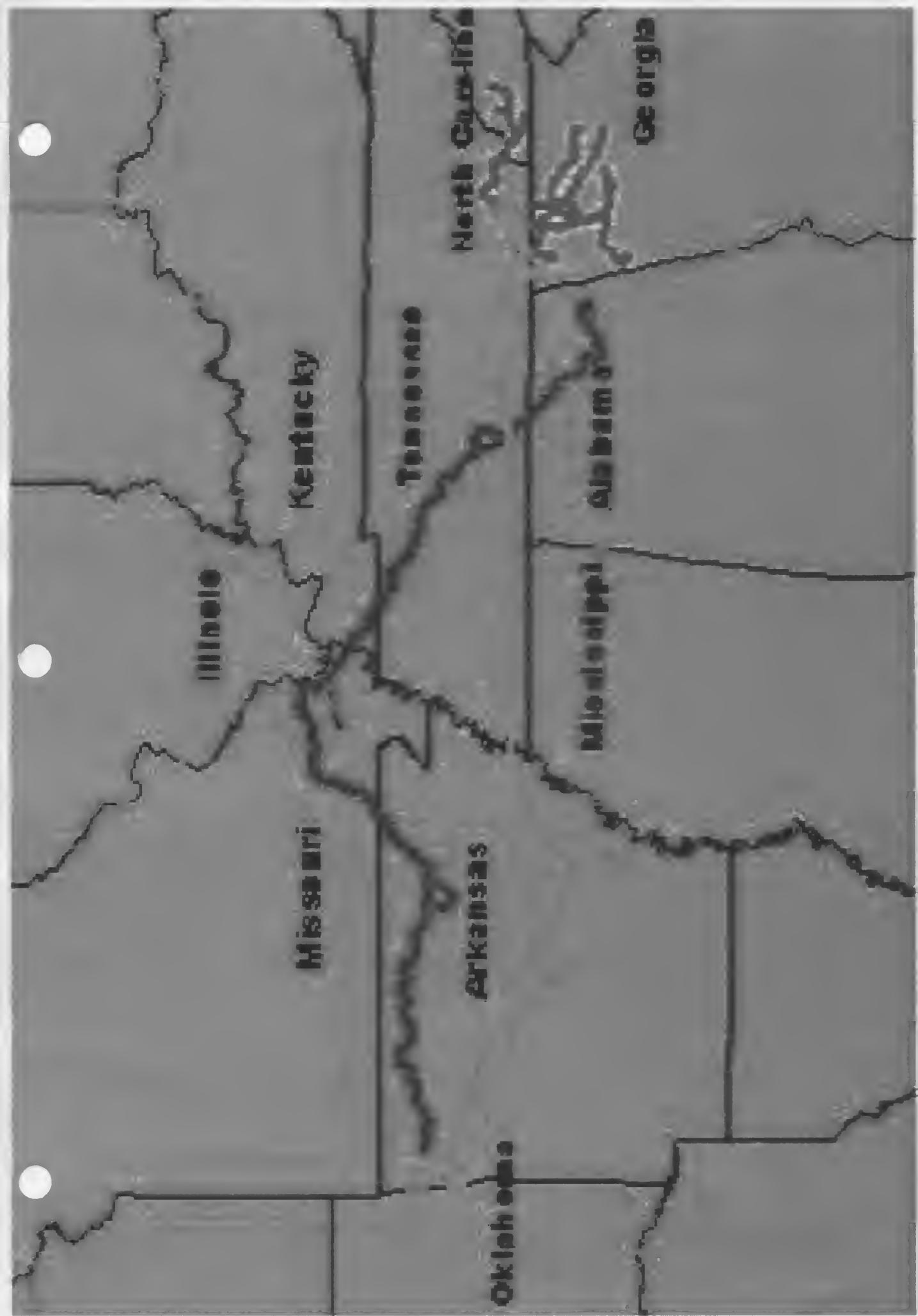
Front Row Left: Unidentified person, Mary Lou Mildred Williams, Eva Odelle Williams, Andrew Leroy Williams, Nancy Jane Williams.

Back Row Left: Mary Anne Temple Williams, Sam Robley (Ettna's Husband), Ettna Williams Robley, Florence Williams and Mary Anne's son, Timothy Cornelius Williams.

Mary Anne Temple is buried in the Hollywood Cemetery in Madison County

JONATHAN D. AND KIZZIAH JANE TEMPLE EASON FAMILY





— Bell Route — Benge Route — Roundup Routes



The above picture is Jonathan D. Eason and his Cherokee wife, Kizziah Jane Temple Eason. The child is their grandson, Curry Eason (Goff?). The Shade Eason family raised Kizziah from infancy.

Jonathan and Kizziah are the great grandparents of James Leon, Charles Junior, Thomas Albert, Kenneth Ray and Brenda Kay Eason. They would also be the great great-grandparents of their children.

Kizziah Jane would be Dylan, Logan and Drake Eason's great, great, great grandmother. Jonathan D. Eason would be their great, great, great grandfather.



This is a picture of Kizziah Jane Temple Eason in her older years. She and her husband Jonathan D. Eason were both of an old age when they died.



A Brief History of the Cherokee Native Americans

Historians have disagreed for many years over who the first Americans were. Did they come with Christopher Columbus? Was it the Spanish explorers, the Vikings or the explorer America was named after, Amerigo Vespucci?

The Cherokee hunter above would not hesitate to say that it was his people who were the original natives who had settled the south eastern part of our country thousands of years ago before any of the above explorers had given it a thought. To this day, they proudly call themselves the Principle People or simply The People. They, as do all Native Americans, resent being called Indians. Columbus gave them that name because he thought he had discovered the country of India when he arrived on the North American shores.

By most sources found online, the word Cherokee means a people with a different speech and many historians say it describes a people who dwelled in caves and the mountains. The Cherokee are described by most historians as a handsome, proud, spiritual people who respect nature and the earth.

There are two major bands of Cherokee people residing in the United States now, the Eastern Band in North Carolina and the Western Band in Oklahoma. Despite a history of hardship and persecution, the Cherokee Nation has survived and is thriving today.



Jonathan D. Eason (1841-1898)

It would be very safe to say that one of the major patriarchs of your Eason ancestors in the 1800s was Jonathan D. Eason or as some would say Grandpa Eason.

Born on March 27, 1841, Jonathan was the son of Armstead and Chrischanney Duck Eason. He would eventually marry the beautiful Cherokee lady, Kizziah Jane Temple, and the couple would have four pretty daughters.

Five different young men from other local families would marry into and become members of the Jonathan Eason and Kizziah Temple Eason family. Hickman Marion Johnson married Martheay A. Eason, Reuben Wylie Goff would marry Francis (Frankie) Eason (Frankie later married a second husband, John Wiley Newman). James Lemeral Jones would marry Mary Almarene Eason and Jesse B. Scott would marry Lucinda (Lucy) Eason.

A large Number of grandchildren would also follow and become members of the Jonathan Eason family too. There are many people in our community today who can call this family their ancestors or at least extended ancestors.



Henry Temple in the 1870 United States Federal Census

✓ You've saved this record to your shoebox.

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Name: Henry Temple

Age in 1870 66

Birth Year abt 1804

Birthplace Kentucky

Home in 1870: Sharpsburg, Bath, Kentucky

Race: White

Gender: Male

Post Office: Sharpsburg

Value of real estate: [View image](#)

Household Members Name Age

Chars Nash 30

Mary V Nash 16

Toliver J H Nash 29

Jessie Clark 18

Jno Copher 19

Willis Chresty 18

Henry Temple 66

William Temple 26



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mellissarich70

Mar 03, 2015



I have a family history written by a Grand Uncle of mine and it only states the following:

In 1850, when Timothy's father (William Andrew Jackson Williams) was 18 years of age he was doing some remodeling at the home of Spencer Davis (age 78 from Virginia) and Nancy Davis (age 60 born in Virginia in 1790) where he met Mary Ann Temple. She was living and working on the Davis's farm... There isn't a record of her maiden family name, or if Mary Ann Temple was ever related to the Davis's. It is believed the Mary Ann was an orphan born in Tennessee. She may have lost her parents and was given to the Davis family to raise. In those days an orphan was given to whoever would take the child.

The history then goes on to say that when she was the age of 13, William asked to marry her and that in the 1860 census William, Mary Ann and their son are living with Nancy Davis in her home in Henderson County, Tenn.

Mary Ann Temple is listed in the 1850 Census living with the Davis' in District 16, Henderson County, but when I looked at the pages before and following that listing, I didn't find any Britts thinking that the Britt and Davis family may have lived close together. I have no record of any Britt in my family history. I hope this helps you in your search.